

# Job Opportunities For Families:

This state will recover from the current economic downturn through smart decision-making. As a first step, I am working to streamline the permitting process for business development. Removing barriers to business expansion will provide more job opportunities for your family.

For too long now, government policies – and our state’s agencies – have been driving employers out of Washington. It is time government began working to attract employers back to our state.

While we all agree transportation solutions remain important, we must not ignore the state’s stream of red tape that employers have specifically said prevent them from expanding their businesses to create more job opportunities. Our state’s barriers have forced businesses to close their doors and put local citizens out of work. These rules are simply not fair to families and not good for Washington.

The 2002 Legislature did approve a number of measures for business development, but I believe we could have done more. I want to bring more jobs to the 47th District and all of Washington. My plan to streamline the permitting process will allow companies such as Boeing to build, expand and grow.



# Tobacco ‘Securitization’

**What are others saying** about the plan by the majority party controlling the Legislature to sell off a portion of the state’s settlement with tobacco companies – *money once earmarked to pay for health care services and anti-smoking efforts* – for a one-time cash payment to fund ongoing state spending increases?

**“we’ll pay a high price for this gimmick”**  
– South County Journal editorial (3/14/02)

**“too big a gamble for the state”**  
– News Tribune editorial (3/6/02)

**“no real solution”**  
– Seattle Times editorial (3/6/02)

**“a bad deal for Washington taxpayers”**  
– Democrat Attorney General Christine Gregoire

**“terrible fiscal policy”**  
– Democrat State Treasurer Mike Murphy

## Rep. Jack Cairnes

P.O. Box 40600  
Olympia, WA 98504  
(360) 786-7858 or  
1-800-562-6000

PRESORTED  
STANDARD  
U. S. POSTAGE PAID  
Washington State  
Department of Printing

## INSIDE:

- Budget 2002
- A Transportation Fix
- Public Safety Funding



## Rep. Jack Cairnes

P.O. Box 40600  
Olympia, WA 98504  
(360) 786-7858  
1-800-562-6000  
cairnes\_ja@leg.wa.gov

### Committees:

Finance  
Financial Institutions & Insurance

**Legislative info on the Internet:**  
www.leg.wa.gov

# Legislature 2002: 47<sup>th</sup> District Report

For residents of the 47<sup>th</sup> District - Auburn, Black Diamond, Covington, Kent, King County, Maple Valley, and Renton.

Dear Friends,

Lawmakers were presented with many opportunities in 2002. I came to Olympia looking forward to working with the Democrat majority to solve an ever-growing budget deficit. I believed, and still believe, the only way to build a better Washington was to avoid partisan politics and make the tough choices.

My efforts to create job opportunities and strengthen public safety were replaced with less funding for criminal justice and special interest protection. Instead of sitting down – together – to find solutions, the majority party has placed our state’s future in further jeopardy and left, by their own account, a \$1 billion hole in the 2003 budget. More on that later.

We made great strides working together this session on both the statewide and regional traffic congestion relief packages. The voters now have the opportunity to make their decision in November. Inside this newsletter, you will find more information on the transportation package.

It’s unfortunate the same type of open, honest debate that occurred during transportation negotiations was missing from the budget decisions. It was upsetting to witness the majority party choose partisanship over leadership.

If you have any other questions, please e-mail me at **cairnes\_ja@leg.wa.gov** or call my office at (360) 786-7858 or 1-800-562-6000.

I’m honored to represent the citizens of the 47<sup>th</sup> District and always welcome your concerns, comments and questions.

Sincerely,

*Jack Cairnes*  
Jack Cairnes  
State Representative



# Transportation Solutions: Congestion Relief Package on November Ballot

*In my December survey, 68 percent of you wanted the voters to have the final say on any new transportation taxes. While it was sometimes difficult, I persuaded lawmakers to give you that chance. If you would like more information or to comment on this effort, or the regional transportation package itself, feel free to contact my office. I look forward to hearing from you.* — Jack

Voters will be given a chance in November to vote on a nearly \$8 billion statewide transportation relief package. Legislative approval for a public vote came after two long years of tough negotiations.

**Highlights of the package approved by the Legislature include:**

- A 9-cent-a-gallon gas tax increase – 5 cents the first year and 4 cents one year after that.
- A 1 percent increase in the sales tax on new and used vehicles.
- A 30 percent increase (15 percent per year over two years) on gross truck weight fees.

A provision that would have added a 3-cent-per-gallon tax surcharge for diesel fuel on top of the 9-cent increase was removed from the compromise bill. In another compromise, Democrats also removed the gross weight fee surcharge from recreational vehicles.

## Regional Plan Update:

In addition to the statewide package, voters in King, Snohomish and Pierce counties may create a Regional Transportation Investment District (RTID) to fund regional projects.

Before the 2002 session, I was concerned the 47<sup>th</sup> District would receive little or no congestion relief under this newly formed RTID.

Through collaborative negotiations, we approved a plan for a public vote that will allow 47<sup>th</sup> District residents an equal voice on the RTID board. Plus, any RTID plan will also go before voters, a change I deemed essential to any regional transportation funding plan. I will continue to work to make sure essential projects such as the Maple Valley Highway and Kent-Kangley Road are included in any RTID plan.

The RTID is allowed to impose a vehicle license fee of up to \$100 per year, a commercial parking tax on gross proceeds or vehicle stalls, sales and use tax of up to 0.5 percent, and tolls on new improvements.

These projects may include capital improvements or improvements to a highway of statewide significance that adds a lane or new lanes, HOV lanes, park-and-ride lots, vans for van pools, and buses. Local roads leading to highways and new highways are also eligible for revenue if certain conditions are met.

# Public Safety – Keepings Police on the Streets & Locking Up the Crooks

*As long as state lawmakers continue to reduce funding for local public safety and approve watered-down penalties for crimes such as car theft, criminals will NOT get the message.*

**CUTTING LOCAL PUBLIC SAFETY FUNDING:** *Today, more than ever, we should be responding to the taxpayers who have told lawmakers over and over to protect public safety.*

Unfortunately, the majority chose to cut funding counties and cities have used to maintain their police, fire and health services. Known as ‘I-695 backfill’ these dollars were used to fund programs that had been funded through the Motor Vehicle Excise Tax (MVET) that was lowered to a flat \$30 fee with the passage of Initiative 695.

**CAR THEFT:** *We need to fight this out-of-control crime. Your car takes you to work and back home; it takes your children to school or evening activities. When these car thieves steal your car, the punishment should be severe.*

For several years, I have been fighting to increase the penalties for car theft. This session, both a Democrat and Republican introduced identical legislation to send these thieves a message: steal a car in Washington and go to jail the very first time.

As the Democrat proposal moved through the process, it became softer and softer on these criminals. We then attempted to bring the Republican proposal directly to a vote of the full House of Representatives. This was voted down (50-48) along party lines.

A Senate bill that provides \$53,000 to fight auto theft did pass the Legislature, but it only increased the penalties for those involved in ‘chop shop’ operations. No additional penalties were added for adults who aren’t part of chop shops. Juveniles, who commit close to half of the 35,000 auto thefts in Washington each year, face no additional penalties this year.

**DRUG OFFENDERS:** *Drug offenders currently make up 21 percent of our prison population. This year, the governor supported and signed a law lowering sentences for these criminals. This is not good policy.*

Putting these crooks back on the streets with little or no supervision will only lead to more drug and property crimes. It won’t stop the ‘revolving doors’ in and out of our prisons, only make the door swing faster and increase court costs.

If we are serious about getting criminals off drugs and making our neighborhoods and schoolyards safer, we should identify those drug addicts willing to commit to treatment and direct any budget savings directly to local treatment programs.

We can’t help the crooks not willing to help themselves. That’s simply throwing your good tax dollars after bad.

# State Budget Raises Stakes – and Debt – for Taxpayers

*From my point of view, the culprit’s simple: regulations and spending. Sadly, however, instead of making the choice to cut spending, the majority have chosen to place the burden on the taxpayers. Combining that with the amount of regulations placed on those who try to do business and create jobs, has led to our economic hardships.*

**OPERATING BUDGET OUT OF BALANCE:** To the surprise of few, the state operating budget adopted last June turned out to be fiscally unsound. The budget spent \$700 million more than revenue coming in when it was adopted and, as the state’s economy continued its predicted slide, lawmakers were forced back to the drawing board to try to bring the budget back into balance – just six months into the two-year fiscal cycle.

The \$1.6 billion budget deficit we faced in 2002 wasn’t solely the result of terrorist attacks on our country. It’s unfortunate some lawmakers have chosen to blame our economic recession on 9-11, instead of digging a bit deeper. Only when we can sit down together and forge solutions will the people of Washington truly be served.

Republicans attempted to work in a bipartisan manner to help solve the \$1.6 billion deficit, but were constantly rebuffed. We knew in February of last year that this state was in the beginning of a recession. Now, we have a full-blown fiscal crisis.

**“They knew it was at least \$1 billion out of whack when they left,”– Democrat State Treasurer Mike Murphy quoted in the Wenatchee World 3/24/02**

The net reduction in the 2002 budget revisions amounted to just \$298 million – or about 1.3 percent of the \$22.8 billion state budget. With the state facing the first real decline in revenue from one biennium to another in two decades, the budget still increases state spending nearly 7 percent from the last biennium.

Families and businesses understand that you can’t continue to spend more money than you have coming in, or you will be in deep financial trouble very soon. Yet the majority controlling the Legislature could not bring themselves to stop the growth in spending.

**INITIATIVE 601 “GUT” NO SOLUTION:** I voted against a plan that allows the Legislature to raise taxes with a simple majority, a move that puts the final nail in the coffin of state spending limits approved by voters as Initiative 601. The bill, Senate Bill 6819, allows taxes to be raised by a simple-majority vote, and also allows lawmakers to raid the emergency reserve fund with a simple-majority vote.

**FUTURE REVENUE IN JEOPARDY:** In addition to gutting I-601, the majority also approved Senate Bill 6828, a plan to sell off part of the state’s tobacco settlement payments to raise \$450 million in cash to pay for ongoing operating budget expenditures.

Giving up 30 percent of revenue for a one-time, one-year fix that will leave taxpayers with 30 years of payments is simply not good public policy. Republicans proposed amendments to this controversial plan. Our proposals to make better use of the tobacco settlement money without selling bonds included using the tobacco payments to pay for senior prescription drugs, backfill public health agencies, restore cuts in nursing home reimbursements or increase salaries for nursing home workers. They were all turned down.

**This money should be directed toward health care. The citizens who rely on these services need our support.**



**Rep. Jack Cairnes discusses legislation with colleagues on the floor of the House of Representatives.**

If you would like Rep. Cairnes to speak to your classroom, club meeting or other gathering about the state budget, transportation plan or any other issues surrounding state government, please call his office at (360) 786-7858.